BULLETIN from

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RELIGIOUS BOOK SUPPLEMENT

Pre-Lenten Issue: Part One

Note:- Ash Wednesday comes this year on February 19th, Easter on April 6th. Some of the libraries, where making of Lenten lists is important, have asked us to report on early 1958 titles in this field as rapidly as possible. Hence this first supplement; a second pre-Lenten supplement will appear in the next issue.... Check on back Religious Book Supplements as well as these two in preparing your lists. Call to the attention of local church study groups the availability of these supplements in helping them to make up their study lists. Let your local priests and clergy know that the books are available. And during the Lenten season, particularly, have a special shelf in a conspicuous position with recommended books for Lenten reading... With the tremendous increase in reading of religious books, this should prove of signal assistance to your public.

Non Catholic Books- *Reviewed by* Dr. Roscoe T. Foust

Barclay, William — Abingdon Press

LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES — $2.00

A little book which sheds a great deal of light on some of the perplexities and obscurities of the *Book of Revelation*. It deals especially with Chapters Two and Three in which the author of *Revelation* is writing to the seven churches of Asia Minor, Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. Dr. William Barclay, lecturer in New Testament literature at the University of Glasgow, describes the background of each city and then gives a verse-by-verse exposition of the letter to the church there. The past is brought to life, the setting for the *Book of Revelations* provided, and the explanation of the life and times of the early church reveals the fact that many of their problems still confront the Church of today. This is a most readable and important book for the serious New Testament student, be he layman or clergyman. (Publ. LC:58-5146)

Hiltner, Seward — Abingdon Press

PREFACE TO PASTORAL THEOLOGY — $4.00

* Dr. Hiltner, who now teaches at the Chicago University School of Divinity, is well and favorably known to an increasing number of clergy who are increasingly concerned about the effectiveness of their pastoral ministry to people in trouble. His concern is that modern techniques and insights that have come from the various sciences that study human personality shall be made available for a more useful and effective ministry. He has devoted his own ministry to teaching and writing in this field. "But", he writes, "we have not had up to this point a fundamental and unifying theory that would enable us to do justice to these modern contributions while relating them critically and explicitly to the theological tradition." In this book, Dr. Hiltner takes a giant step in this direction, and shows the theological context which will serve this purpose. He uses as source material the published dialog or direct-discourse accounts of the Reverend Ichabod S. Spencer, a Presbyterian minister in the 1850's. In them he gives an account of his ministry to individuals and families. These "sketches" give Dr. Hiltner an unparalleled opportunity to examine the modern ways of "shepherding" in the light of some of the ways of the past. It is a fascinating study, and the Protestant clergy for whom it is especially written will find rich resources here for a more understanding and therefore effective ministry. The book has been chosen by the Psychological Book Club as their January Book of the Month. (2/10. LC:58-5398)

Kennedy, Gerald H. Abingdon Press
I BELIEVE $1.25

The publishers intend to produce a "Know Your Faith" series, designed to answer every person's questions about his beliefs and to aid in strengthening his faith. This is the first volume by the bishop of the Los Angeles Area of the Methodist Church, known for earlier volumes of sermons, among them *The Lion and the Lamb, With Singleness of Heart, God's Good News,* and *Who Speaks for God?* Here in ten brief chapters he writes simply and clearly of the great affirmations of the Christian faith, and has set forth admirably his convictions about God, Jesus Christ, Myself, Life, Tomorrow, Immortality, Triumph, Fellowship, Love and Faith. This is a good book to give both to the believers who want to brush up on their faith and also to the seekers who wish they had one. The language is non-technical, but the teaching sound. (Publ. LC:58-5400)

Manschreck, Clyde L. Abingdon Press
MELANCTHON, THE QUIET REFORMER $6.00

Those who have some background knowledge of the Reformation will welcome this scholarly but eminently readable biography of Melancthon, the "Theologian of the Reformation". Dr. Manschreck, associate professor of religion at Duke University, has given us a stimulating interpretation of the life and times of this stormy period by giving us a full-length portrait in depth of this co-worker with Luther about whom so little is known, and that little so often distorted. He uses the original sources to good effect, and Melancthon takes shape as one of the great and original thinkers of the Reformation, second only to Luther and Calvin. Of interest primarily to students of the Reformation period, even the general reader will feel the urge to go on and find out all this stimulating author has to say about this interesting person of 400 years ago. (Publ. LC:58-5147)

Rhodes, Arnold Black- *Ed.* Abingdon Press
THE CHURCH FACES THE ISMS $4.50

This is a symposium written by the faculty of the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. Its purpose is to examine the church's task of applying the Christian faith to a world of competing allegiances. These "isms" are divided into three groups: 1) Isms predominantly Biblical (Fundamentalism, Adventism, Dispensationalism, Perfectionism);2) Isms both Biblical and Cultural (Judaism, Roman Catholicism, Denominationalism and Ecumenism, Healing Sects); and 3) Isms predominantly Cultural, (Fascism and Communism, Racism, Naturalism, Scientism and Modernism, Secularism). A brief history and a statement of the characteristic features of each ism is given, the ism is evaluated positively and negatively, so that leaders of the Protestant Church, for whom it is especially written, may be the better prepared to deal fairly and effectively with these contemporary challenges to "mainline" Protestantism. For this purpose, and general reading, an interesting and useful book. (Publ. LC:58-5392)

Richardson, Cyril C. Abingdon Press
THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY $3.00

The Orthodox Christian doctrine of the Holy Trinity comes under close scrutiny by Cyril Richardson, Professor at Union Theological Seminary, New York, and he strongly suggests that it does not really illuminate the Christian faith nor does it adequately guard the essential truths of that faith; instead the doctrine creates bewilderment instead of true faith. Modern understanding of the Scriptures demands a new effort to do what the writers of the New Testament tried to do, -- find appropriate language and symbols by which Christians express their faith in the God who revealed himself in Jesus Christ. To do this, we should not be bound by particular symbols, such as the Trinity, if it is found to detract from or confuse the basic message it sought to convey. Written chiefly for theologians and scholars,-- many others who are seriously concerned with the problem of making the Christian religion relevant to today in today's language will find this book immensely stimulating and challenging. (2/10. LC:58-5393)

Bonnell, John Sutherland Harper
NO ESCAPE FROM LIFE $3.95

Dr. John Sutherland Bonnell, minister of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, has for many years, in addition to his other duties as leader of a large metropolitan church, conducted a consultation clinic. Because he has had psychiatric training as well as theological training, many are they who have found help with their problems, their fears and anxieties, at a depth which has been long hidden from them. With sure skill and much patience, Dr. Bonnell has helped these people to see that many, if not most, of their troubles have resulted from mistaken and futile efforts to escape from life. From this knowledge and a new determination to face oneself squarely has come healing and peace. The author draws freely from literature as well as from current case histories, and shows that "from the most high comes healing". By relating his people to God he makes them aware of a Power that will enable them to face up to the demands of life, rather than run away from them. The book should make a wide appeal, both in style and content, as almost anyone with a problem will find it exceedingly helpful. (1/22. LC:57-12933)

Matson, Archie Harper
A MONTH WITH THE MASTER $3.75

DR * A handbook for spiritual growth, so complete in content and so well written that any reader who will follow its suggestions and instructions faithfully is bound to grow in grace and spiritual strength, and really find that peace which so many other books promise but fail to deliver. That is because it can come only from God to the heart and mind of a man who is willing to discipline himself for God's sake, and walk patiently and humbly in the steps of the Master- because, they lead to- and also beyond- the Cross. Mr. Matson, using a modified method based on the spiritual exercises of Ignatius Loyola, introduces us to a way of spiritual growth for twentieth century Christians. He bases his exercises on thirty-three successive selections from *St. Luke*, shows how the reader may identify himself with those who first shared in this human fellowship with Jesus, and then having shown the reader how to get into the story, he shows how to get the story into the reader. The scene is moved from the first to the twentieth century, and made alive in the modern situation. He tells how to break the shell of habitual and complacent living in order that Christ may live in and work through us as modern disciples. There could be no better book for Lenten use by any who earnestly seek to come closer to Christ and be more like him. (1/22. LC:57-12935)

Edwards, Charlotte Hawthorn
HEAVEN ON THE DOORSTEP $3.00

In a message of the power of real faith from one woman to another, Mrs. Edwards tells in words of moving clarity how her own faith was born and grew into the robust, all-encompassing way of life it is today. Her faith became aware of its power when she, a Protestant, was given by a Roman Catholic friend a medal of St. Jude, the saint of the impossible, and she gave birth to a child she was sure she would lose. In turn this same medal galvanizes the faith of a Jewish girl, an agnostic, and another Roman Catholic. It was not, she makes clear, the medal as such which helped these women, but the lesson the medal taught to each of *how* to have faith. She proceeds to explore the whole matter of faith, and sheds the light of faith upon a wide range of human experience, worry, prayer, sin, fear, raising children, etc. Many women will take new heart and feel their own faith grow strong if they will permit themselves to become identified with the author who speaks for them all. (2/7. LC:58-5623)

Woods, Nellie B.- *Ed.* Hawthorn
THE HEALINGS OF THE BIBLE $2.50

There is a widespread interest today in all aspects of spiritual healing. In the many books on the subject there is constant reference to the Biblical stories of such healing. But until now there has been no ready record of these healings in a single volume. Nellie Woods has sought to fill this gap by collecting from both the Old and New Testaments all the stories of God's healing to be found there, and has produced a little book of singular usefulness to all who are interested in the art of healing, as well as to the general reader, who is likely to be amazed that these healings occured in such a wide variety of situations and dealt with so many different diseases. When these stories are thus brought together we are more than ever impressed that healing in the name of Christ is a part of the basic mission of the Christian Church. (1/24. LC:58-5622)

Oxnam, G. Bromley Little, Brown
A TESTAMENT OF FAITH $3.00

* With the vigor and forthrightness many readers have come to expect from him, G. Bromley Oxnam, Bishop in the Methodist Church, has written a striking expression of his own faith. Drawn from many years of experience in his own Church and in the World Council of Churches, he gives in this book a strong and winning statement of a faith strong enough to survive the attacks made upon it by the pagan world of our day as well as the attacks of little men who stooped to personal villification. Bishop Oxnam believes in God, in Jesus Christ, in Prayer, in the Church, in Life Everlasting- and in Man himself. Without blinking at any of the uglier facts of life which to some spell the doom of man, he believes that man will find peace of mind and soul, not in the neat formulas of some of the most popular clergymen, but in the Cross of Christ. Many a Christian will be a stronger one for reading this book, and many others will seek to know more about a faith which can end on such a note of triumph. A strong antidote for the quacks. (2/10. LC:58-6027)

Ileana, Princess of Romania Morehouse-Gorham
MEDITATIONS ON THE NICENE CREED $1.85

DR A small paper-covered book of meditations on the Creed by Princess Ileana of Romania. Known for her piety and charity and the depth of her Christian convictions, she writes here with winning simplicity of the ground of her faith. She states the historical background for the various affirmations of the Creed, and shows their universal application to all sorts and conditions of men. Her theology is orthodox, but not obtrusive, and many Christian women will doubtless be glad to find in the Princess a kindred soul. It will make good Lenten reading. (Publ. LC:58-5310)

Kennedy, James W. Morehouse-Gorham
HOLY ISLAND $2.75

DR There is a Holy Island, Lindisfarne, off the Northeastern coast of Great Britain where holy men once lived and worked. But "any period of apartness for soul refreshment", writes Dr. Kennedy, "can be likened to a Holy Island, whether it be a season within the Church year, a retreat or quiet day, or one's own private devotions." Using this analogy, suggested by his own visit to Lindisfarne, the author here provides a devotional sermonette for each day of Lent in which he touches on as many aspects of the relationship of man to God, with helpful suggestions for the enrichment of this fellowship. Appropriate Prayer Book prayers, and some original ones are included after each chapter. The framework of the book is Episcopalian, but that will not mar its usefulness for general Protestant Lenten reading. The writing is vivid, though a little diffuse. The Bishop of New York has designated this as his "book for 1958. (Publ. LC:58-5782)

Simcox, Carroll E. Morehouse- Gorham
THE PROMISES OF GOD $3.50

DR * Subtitled, "an exercise in Biblical thinking", this new book by Dr. Simcox, assistant to the Rector of St. Thomas' Church (Episcopal), New York, is just that. It is comprised of forty pairs of short meditations. The first of each pair is based upon an Old Testament passage, and shows that men today, in their human frailty, are still living B.C. The second meditation is based on a New Testament passage which fulfills the promise of or answers the questions raised by, the preceding Old Testament passage. It provides a reader with a useful standard of measurement by which he can determine whether in any way not chronological he is living A.D. The meditations are brief, inspirationally written, and there are enough pairs to last through the forty days of Lent. Dr. Simcox suggests that the B.C. chapter be read in the morning, the A.D. one at night. Thus he sets up an unusual exercise in Biblical thinking which, faithfully used, would result in real spiritual growth. This is one of the better guides to meditation for all Protestant Christians. (Publ. LC:58-5340)

Davis, Henry C. Muhlenburg Press
DESIGN FOR PREACHING $4.75

Professor Henry Davis, of the Chicago Lutheran Seminary, has written a book for preachers young enough to profit from his suggestions and wisdom derived from many years of teaching homiletics, and old enough not to be content with the preaching job they are doing. It is rich in the analysis of actual sermons, by which he shows how form and content are related in a good sermon, and the many forms such a relationship may take. A preacher's working method must be his own, says Dr. Davis. This book aims rather to furnish a critical apparatus, a basis for discrimination, which can be used with any sound method of working. It serves this purpose interestingly and well, and any preacher would derive great help from it. (2/15)

Michalson, Carl Scribner
FAITH FOR PERSONAL CRISES $3.50

* For the pastor, who seeks for help in translating the concepts of Christian theology so that he may better make the deed of Christ effective in helping people in their critical needs; and for the many who today have become versed and skilled in modern psychoanalytic approach to the problems of human anxiety, often to the exclusion of religion,- this is a book of great importance which should be widely read. The author, Dr. Michalson, possesses both a deep psychological insight into the nature of people, and a sound grasp of the relevance of theology to all men who face inevitably the anxiety-ridden crises of life which are the issues of life and death. The seven crucial situations which he examines are guilt, doubt, vocation, marriage, suffering and death. Since he believes that man's task in all things is to be responsible to God, he makes clear how the Christian faith both speaks to men plainly through these situations, and also provides the resources for meeting them. Any mature person must receive great help from this book, which says convincingly, "the truth about man is as available to us in the Christian faith as an anxiety-reducing truth; it does not remove all anxiety; the spice of life remains. But it removes the unsavory anxiety that makes life tedious and tasteless. For Christianity is the truth that man is made in the image of God, and when one knows who God is the conditions of reality are present for a salutary adjustment to the manifold situations of life." (3/3. LC:58-5720)

Niebuhr, Reinhold Scribner
PIOUS AND SECULAR AMERICA: *Essays* $3.00

* No one sees the American (and world) scene so steadily and whole as Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr. His Christian critique of modern man and his world must be reckoned with by any serious student of human affairs. This is his latest contribution to a large volume of incisive writing which holds a clear and unflattering mirror up before the face of Americans who do not always like what they see. The book's title is taken from the first of a collection of essays in which Dr. Niebuhr analyzes the phenomenon that America seems to be growing more religious and more secular at the same time. His keen mind next explores such related subjects as, "Frustration in Mid-century", "Higher Education in America", "Russia and America", "Liberty and Equality", "Justice to the American Negro from State, Community and Church", "The Relations of Christians and Jews in Western Civilization", "The Impulse for Perfection and the Impulse for Community", and "Mystery and Meaning". Dr. Niebuhr has never written so that he who runs may read, and often his theological writing can reward only the most careful and patient student. Nor has he now written in a popular style. Nevertheless, the careful reader of these essays will not have to subject himself to a determined re-reading to learn their meaning. Instead he will be tempted to rejoice that here is a man who can reflect and express the reader's innermost thoughts, disturbed though they are, and bring them all together on a hopeful note of potential triumph. In Christ, Dr. Niebuhr affirms repeatedly, is to be found that assurance of final foregiveness for the ineradicable evil in the human heart that can lift the self from despair to newness of life. This is the final answer to the mystery of human existence. (March - LC:58-5721)
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Carrington, Philip Seabury Press
OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR $1.75

* There are many books about Jesus and the background of his earthly life, but too often their message is muted by the author's special pleading. This book is *not* a case in point. The author, the Anglican Archbishop of Quebec, writing especially for laymen, tells the story of Jesus simply, yet with a full awareness of the advances made by modern scholarship, so that the reader feels that "the Lord" is making his own appeal by his words and his life. No purple prose is here to move men, but this clear statement of the life and teachings of Jesus as found in the Bible and in the early Church makes this one of the best of recent books to make plain the Christian way so often hidden by weeds of indifference or neglect. It has been designated by the publishers as their "Lenten Book," and should have a wide reading during the Lenten season, especially by Episcopalians. (Publ.)